

~~CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY~~

REPORT NO.

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Syria

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DATE DISTR. 9 MAY 1949

SUBJECT Relations between General Husni Zaim
and Jamil Mardam
25X1A6a

NO. OF PAGES 1.25X1A2g

PLACE
ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO: 11/11/1964

25X1X6

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

1. Source states that Jamil Mardam first suggested to General Za'im that the latter might one day be instrumental in forming a "new Syria" which would be under some sort of dictatorship based on military strength, and which would give Za'im an important position in the government. Mardam, although not a special friend of his, felt that Za'im was the only person who could be used to challenge the power of their mutual enemy, Ahmad Sharabati, then Minister of Defense. Because of this, Mardam protected Za'im when Sharabati desired to court-martial him for going to Damascus without permission, while he was in command of troops at Deir-ez-Zor. Mardam asked President Qunwattli to be lenient with Za'im, and suggested that, if he really thought Za'im would cause trouble (as Sharabati insisted), he should remove him from his command at Deir-ez-Zor and place him in charge of the Sureté, which at that time (early 1948) was not a position of importance.
2. Za'im, however, did not feel himself under obligation to Mardam for his intervention, as he felt that Mardam's acts were wholly a part of his political intrigues. When the Mardam Government fell in December 1948 and Mardam left for Cairo, Za'im remarked that it was "good riddance," source states.
3. When the Syrian coup d'état took place in March 1949, Mardam cabled his congratulations from Cairo, but Za'im, reading the cable aloud to his entourage, stated, according to source, that it was too bad that Mardam was not in Damascus "to enjoy the honor of being the first to be hanged for betraying and cheating his country during the Palestine crisis."

This document is hereby regraded to
CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the
letter of 16 October 1978 from the
Director of Central Intelligence to the
Archivist of the United States.
Next Review Date: 2008

Document No.

NO CHANGE in Class

~~DECLASSIFIED~~

Class. CHANGED TO: T

DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77

Auth: REG. 17/1763

Date: 18 MAY 78 By: 018

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CLASSIFICATION ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

[illegible]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~